United Nations A/66/153 (Part I)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 July 2011
English
Original: Arabic/English/French/
Russian/Spanish

Sixty-sixth session
Items 94 and 101 of the provisional agenda*

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Observations	3
III.	Replies received from Governments	4
	Australia	4
	Austria	4
	Burkina Faso	5
	Cuba	6
	Egypt	7
	Estonia	9
	Iraq	10
	Ireland	11
	Japan	12
	Kazakhstan	15
	Lebanon	15

* A/66/150.

11-41729 (E) 080811 180811

Please recycle

Mexico 16
Syrian Arab Republic 17
Turkmenistan 18
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 19

I. Introduction

1. By paragraph 10 of its resolution 65/42, on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to the report of the Secretary-General of 10 October 1990 (A/45/435) or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. By paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. On 9 March 2011, a note verbale was sent to all Member States drawing their attention to paragraphs 10 and 11 of General Assembly resolution 65/42 and seeking their views on the matter. Replies, which have been received from Australia, Austria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), are reproduced in section III below. Additional replies received from Governments will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Observations

3. The Secretary-General notes that none of the recent political changes taking place throughout the Middle East have in any way weakened the international consensus pertaining to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. In particular, States of the region that are party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have continued to place considerable importance on the full implementation of the practical steps agreed to at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see A/65/121 (Part I), para. 3).

4. In accordance with the above-mentioned practical steps, the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East have initiated consultations with States of the region with a view towards enacting the requisite steps, including the appointment of a facilitator and the designation of a host Government, for the convening of a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States.

5. The Secretary-General also notes the activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, including the seminar hosted by the European Union held in Brussels on 6 and 7 July 2011.

6. The Secretary-General reaffirms the urgent need for a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He believes that it is in the best interest of both parties to achieve an end to the conflict, a resolution of all final status issues — including Jerusalem, borders, refugees and security — and the emergence of a sovereign,

independent, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel. He calls for the implementation of all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolutions 1850 (2008) and 1860 (2009). The Secretary-General welcomes the efforts of the United States to facilitate political progress between Israelis and Palestinians. He appeals to the parties to return to negotiations without preconditions and without delay and to discuss all core issues with a view to a final resolution of the conflict. He will continue to work towards that end with the Quartet. The Secretary-General emphasizes the importance of any peace settlement to be comprehensive and reiterates the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative in this regard. He calls upon all concerned parties within and outside the region to adopt a constructive attitude with a view to creating stable security conditions and an eventual settlement that would facilitate the process of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. The Secretary-General reiterates the continued readiness of the United Nations to provide any assistance deemed helpful in this regard.

III. Replies received from Governments

Australia

[Original: English]
[1 June 2011]

Australia continues to support the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, freely arrived at by regional states. The Australian Government welcomed the outcome of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference on the 1995 Middle East resolution and will support constructive efforts to progress the implementation of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Austria

[Original: English]
[31 May 2011]

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are among the key priorities of Austrian foreign policy. Austria thus consistently supported the goal of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the resolution on the Middle East, adopted at the 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and subsequently reaffirmed at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences.

Austria welcomed the consensus reached at the 2010 Review Conference to initiate a process leading to the full implementation of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. This constitutes an important step towards a goal that Austria fully shares.

Achieving a positive outcome will require a cooperative spirit and constructive approach by all parties involved to seriously address the many difficult and complex problems related to this issue. Austria firmly believes that a process towards a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction

would be an important confidence- and security-building contribution for the Middle East and therefore welcomes all efforts made in this regard.

Moreover, progress on this issue is essential for the integrity of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Austria is concerned about the continued presence of weapons of mass destruction in the region and the lack of universality of relevant multilateral legal instruments, most notably the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. In this context, Austria calls on the State in the Middle East that has not done so to accede without delay to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State.

Austria wishes to contribute to the extent possible to the success of this process. Austria has therefore offered to host the 2012 Middle East Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as well as establishment of the Facilitator's Office.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[5 May 2011]

Burkina Faso is deeply committed to the principles of total nuclear disarmament. The country has always supported all regional and international initiatives to rid the world of the threat of nuclear weapons.

Accordingly, in 1996 Burkina Faso signed, and later ratified, the Pelindaba Treaty on an African nuclear-weapon-free zone. Burkina Faso, which is also a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, remains convinced that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East will represent a significant step towards restoring confidence among the States of that region. Burkina Faso therefore urges the States of the region and all other States to abide by the provisions of General Assembly resolution 65/42 of 8 December 2010.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of that resolution, Burkina Faso supports its prompt implementation. The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty, which would expedite the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and would contribute towards the goal of a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

To this end, the United Nations should initiate bilateral and multilateral dialogue among the States parties to the Treaty. Burkina Faso firmly believes that the adoption of an action plan and a timetable for the accession of all the Middle Eastern States to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are important steps in promoting general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[7 June 2011]

Cuba reiterates that the very existence of nuclear weapons — estimated to number 22,600 in the world, of which over 12,000 are in a state of operational readiness — poses a serious threat to mankind. Likewise, the persistence of defence and security doctrines that include the use of such weapons and the huge amounts spent on developing new types of nuclear weapons are unacceptable. Cuba therefore wishes to stress, along with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, that nuclear disarmament is the top disarmament priority.

The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is an important step towards the goal of nuclear disarmament. In the view of Cuba, such zones should be based on arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned and should include arrangements for cooperation between the States parties and signatories in the various zones.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the first such zone, paved the way for other regions in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. The First Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in 2005 in Tlatelolco, Mexico, and the Second Conference, held in New York on 30 April 2010, were a great incentive for States parties in such zones to promote methods of cooperation between themselves, between the organs established under each of the relevant treaties and with other interested States.

Unfortunately, in the Middle East, the call by the overwhelming majority of the States of the region for it to be made into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, has gone unheeded despite the many resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council and by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Cuba considers that serious efforts must be made to implement Security Council resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), the resolution on this matter adopted at the 1995 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and IAEA.

More recently, the participants in the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, held in May 2010, renewed these efforts and agreed to convene a conference in 2012 to follow up on that resolution, which is one of the decisions on this matter that must be implemented as soon as possible.

The creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East would make an important contribution to the attainment of the goal of nuclear disarmament and would be a huge step in the peace process in that region. In order for this to happen, Israel — the only country in the region that has neither become nor stated its intention to become a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty — must accede to the Treaty without delay and place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

In the meantime, Cuba urges the Governments concerned to put an immediate stop to the transfer to Israel of any type of nuclear equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices, as well as nuclear-related scientific and technological assistance. In this connection, it urges, in particular, the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to abide by the provisions of that Treaty.

The acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel represents a threat to the security of the neighbouring States and to peace in the region, which is already in turmoil. The statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister on 12 December 2006, admitting that Israel is a nuclear-weapon State, are a source of great concern.

Egypt

[Original: English]
[3 June 2011]

The item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East" was first inscribed on the agenda of the General Assembly in 1974 at the request of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since 1980, the General Assembly has annually adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and Egypt has relentlessly pursued the objective of ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons.

The main impediment to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East has been Israel. Egypt notes with grave concern that Israel remains the sole country in the Middle East not to adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. While all States of the Middle East have become State parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Israel persists in ignoring repeated calls for its adherence to the Treaty and the placement of its nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Its refusal to adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty has perpetuated a dangerous imbalance and, accordingly, presents a threat to regional and international peace and security.

The 2010 Review Conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons addressed, in its Final Document, Israel's non-adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It recalled the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards and reaffirmed the urgency and importance of achieving universality of the Treaty (see NPT/CONF.2010/50).

Egypt also reaffirms the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and the State parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty had reiterated unanimously at the 2000 Review Conference the importance of Israel's accession as a non-nuclear-weapon State to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. In the 2000 Review Conference Final Document:

> The Conference recalls that in paragraph 4 of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the Conference "calls upon all States in the Middle East that have not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards". The Conference notes, in this connection, that the

report of the United Nations Secretariat on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East (NPT/CONF.2000/7) states that several States have acceded to the Treaty and that, with these accessions, all States of the region of the Middle East, with the exception of Israel, are States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Conference welcomes the accession of these States and reaffirms the importance of Israel's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the treaty in the Middle East (NPT/CONF.2008/28).

In addition to urgent calls for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, inter alia, in the context of the Non-Proliferation Treaty review processes, IAEA, the General Assembly and the Security Council called upon Israel to urgently place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of IAEA (Security Council resolution 487 (1981)) and recalled the objective of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (Security Council resolution 687 (1991)).

In an effort to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the 2010 Review Conference emphasized the importance of a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and endorsed practical steps towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The 2010 Review Conference Final Document states that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, will convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of the Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States. The 2012 conference shall take its terms of reference from the 1995 resolution (NPT/CONF.2010/50).

Egypt believes that the 2012 conference is a step forward towards establishing the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and expresses its intent to cooperate fully with all relevant parties so that the conference will have a positive and meaningful contribution towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The early appointment, by the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, of a facilitator to undertake preparations for the convening of the 2012 conference and the designation of a host Government for the conference, as stipulated in the 2010 Review Conference Final Document, is essential.

Egypt notes the call for the prompt implementation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution of the action plan on the Middle East, the immediate appointment of a facilitator, designation of a host country and confirmation of the date of the 2012 conference as emphasized in the Final Document of the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011 and in resolution (7362) adopted by the Arab Council of Foreign Ministers on 15 May 2011 in Cairo, Egypt.

Egypt firmly believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas of conflict contributes significantly to easing tensions, confidence-building, conflict prevention and the development of peaceful relations and mutual

cooperation. Egypt believes that the only prerequisite for the commencement of negotiations on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is the existence of political will, whether among States in the region or parties that have a direct stake in the region's security and stability.

The existence of political will has been manifested through the consensual adoption by States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including all State parties in the region, of a process leading to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

This manifestation of commitment by States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty needs to be implemented promptly. Egypt looks forward to earnest efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as the depository States to undertake the necessary agreed measures to pave the way for the early commencement of negotiations on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The success of such negotiations would represent a serious breakthrough in efforts geared towards regaining security in a region currently facing an Israeli nuclear threat that provokes further proliferation and presents security challenges.

Egypt expresses its intent to cooperate actively with all parties in an effort to safeguard the Middle East against all nuclear threats through a comprehensive and balanced approach that can ensure the security of all States of the region against nuclear dangers through the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons.

Estonia

[Original: English]
[19 April 2011]

Estonia continues to support the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, based on arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned, as elaborated in the guidelines adopted by the Disarmament Commission in 1999. Nuclear-weapon-free zones enhance regional and global peace and security and are a means of promoting disarmament, stability and confidence.

The nuclear-weapon-free zones are in conformity with the principles of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation policy of Estonia. The Estonian Government welcomed the Final Document of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, adopted on 28 May 2010, which endorsed practical steps for full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, including convening of a conference on the establishment of the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction in 2012.

Estonia is fully aware of the challenges to proliferation affecting the Middle East region and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Estonia has always supported the objective of universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and encouraged all States remaining outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty to accede it. This not only regards nuclear, but also chemical and biological non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament

agreements and instruments, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention and The Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation.

Furthermore, Estonia considers equally important that States that are party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty comply fully with all of its provisions and with all relevant Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolutions. In addition, Estonia is of the view that as part of the nuclear-weapon-free zone agreement, the States in the region should undertake to sign comprehensive safeguard agreements with IAEA. In order to ensure the implementation of these steps, constructive contribution by all States of the region is indispensable.

Estonia joined, at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the adoption by consensus of resolution 65/42, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East". As part of these endeavours, Estonia supported the adoption of the International Atomic Energy Agency resolution (GC(54)/RES/13) entitled "Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East" at the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Conference of IAEA, held from 20 to 24 September 2010.

Estonia remains committed to and recognizes the value of the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review Conference.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[31 March 2011]

1. Iraq appreciates that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances endeavours to achieve nuclear disarmament and also reinforces the security of the States concerned, bringing them closer to realizing the lofty goal of achieving and maintaining international peace and security. On the basis of that principle, Iraq has supported and contributed to the efforts that have been exerted with a view to establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in various geographical regions and, in particular, the Middle East. The ground for any attempt to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East must be prepared by basic steps that include Israeli nuclear disarmament, accession by Israel to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear installations under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards regime.

2. Nuclear-weapon-free zones are essential to confidence-building at the regional level and can be a means of underpinning nuclear non-proliferation and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Zones free of nuclear weapons could also constitute a means of expressing shared values that numerous parties could incorporate and foster in working towards nuclear disarmament, weapons control and non-proliferation.

3. Iraq affirms its unshakable belief in the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It gives practical expression to that position through its support for United Nations resolutions adopted by the General Assembly under the item concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. Iraq believes that the Middle East is currently not free of

nuclear weapons because the capabilities of Israeli military nuclear installations have not been verified, whereas all the other nuclear installations of the States of the region, except those of Israel, have been placed under the IAEA safeguards regime.

4. Iraq calls for implementation of Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which calls upon Israel urgently to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of IAEA, and of resolution 687 (1991), which mentions in paragraph 14 the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

5. Iraq underscores the Arab demand for the goals of the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be implemented, and for all Parties to the Treaty to take the measures necessary for implementation of the resolution on the Middle East that was adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as was decided at the latter of those two Conferences. At that Conference, the five nuclear-weapon States also reaffirmed their commitment to full implementation of that resolution.

6. Iraq attaches particular importance to the affirmations of the 2010 Review Conference concerning the process that will lead to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the practical steps that were set forth in the final document of the 2010 Conference, and urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations to implement them.

7. Accession by Israel to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards is a basic prerequisite for establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

8. Commitment by Israel to international treaties and agreements would facilitate the task of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons that is to be held in 2012.

9. Double standards should not be applied in dealing with countries that are suspected of having nuclear programmes with military applications.

10. The Government of Iraq affirms its commitment to the resolutions that were adopted at the 135th regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Foreign Minister level that was held on 2 March 2011. Resolution 7298 concerns the threat posed by Israeli nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction to international peace and Arab national security, while resolution 7319 concerns the dangers posed to Arab national security by Israeli space and missile-related activity.

Ireland

[Original: English]
[14 June 2011]

In compliance with paragraphs 10 and 11 of General Assembly resolution 65/42 and on foot of a request from the Office of Disarmament Affairs dated 9 March 2011, Ireland hereby submits its views to the Secretary-General on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Ireland has always been a strong supporter of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Indeed, it was a series of resolutions introduced by Ireland to the General

Assembly in the 1950s that laid the groundwork for the Treaty. At the 2010 Review Conference, Ireland worked hard to secure agreement on the action plan for the three pillars of the Treaty, and on the resolution on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Ireland has on many occasions acknowledged and affirmed the central importance of making progress on implementing the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. Securing agreement on a zone free of nuclear weapons and of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East could help in reducing tensions in the region and create the space for enhanced political engagement by States in the region.

Ireland is active in promoting implementation of the 1995 resolution, working both nationally and with other partners. During the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Ireland, acting as coordinator of the New Agenda Coalition, tabled the annual New Agenda Coalition resolution at the First Committee, entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments". The resolution calls on all Non-Proliferation Treaty States parties to work towards the full implementation of the resolution on the Middle East and calls on the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, as well as all other relevant States and organizations, to undertake all necessary preparations to implement the practical steps agreed upon at the 2010 Review Conference in this regard.

Ireland also supported related resolutions on the Middle East of the New Agenda Coalition at the First Committee, including on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

Ireland's commitment to the full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East was recognized by the Chair of the 2010 Review Conference when he asked Ireland to chair subsidiary body 2, charged with making progress on implementing the resolution. In that subsidiary body, Ireland strove to reconcile the divergent aspirations of all Non-Proliferation Treaty States parties and succeeded in negotiating a text that commanded consensus. Central to that agreement is the holding of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

Within the European Union, too, Ireland is working to build on the momentum achieved at the 2010 Review Conference, including through active support for a European Union seminar in July 2011 with the aim of promoting confidence-building and in support of a process aimed at establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery in the Middle East. The European Union seminar is in support of the 2012 conference on the Middle East.

Japan

[Original: English]
[31 May 2011]

Japan supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements voluntarily arrived at among the States of the regions concerned and on the condition that the establishment of such zones would contribute to regional and global stability and security.

Lack of progress in the establishment of a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East poses a serious concern. Japan supported, and continues to fully support, the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, which calls for the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, chemical and biological — and their delivery systems. Japan believes that progress in the establishment of a weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zone in the Middle East will further strengthen the credibility of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Following previous sessions, Japan again joined, at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the consensus adoption of resolution 65/42, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East". Japan welcomes the final document of the 2010 Review Conference, adopted on 28 May 2010, which endorsed practical steps for full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, including convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction in 2012. In order to ensure steady implementation of these steps, active and constructive contributions by all States of the region are indispensable.

In September 2010, Japan, together with nine other non-nuclear-weapon States, launched a new initiative, namely, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, in order to contribute to steady implementation of the conclusion and recommendations for follow-on actions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. The initiative also supports the practical steps endorsed by the 2010 Review Conference towards the convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and stands ready to offer the necessary assistance for the realization of such a conference.

The establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East will ultimately require the adherence by all States in the region to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention. The adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by all States in the region would also be a substantial and practical step towards this end. Japan has been actively taking part in the international efforts to encourage the universal adherence to these multilateral instruments on the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction. As part of such endeavours, Japan supported the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution (GC(54)/RES/13), entitled "Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East" at the fifty-fourth regular session of the General Conference of the IAEA, held from 20 to 24 September 2010. Furthermore, Japan on various occasions has urged Israel to become a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as soon as possible. Japan has also urged other Middle Eastern States to join at the earliest date the relevant treaties related to weapons of mass destruction to which they are not parties in order to foster an environment conducive to the creation of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

It is imperative that compliance with those legal instruments be fully assured. Japan has urged Iran to comply with the obligations and requirements in the relevant IAEA Board of Governors and United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iran's nuclear programme, including the suspension of all enrichment-related activities and the ratification and implementation of the Additional Protocol.

In this context, Japan also stresses the necessity of strengthening the IAEA safeguards system, which plays a vital role in underpinning the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Japan strongly believes that the conclusion of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols by all States in the region is essential for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Japan, with the aim of achieving universal adherence to the comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, is ready to share its expertise and to provide technical assistance to those interested States in the region in concert with IAEA.

Japan is firmly committed to supporting the Middle East peace process, considering that it is a key for regional stability, which is a vital factor in establishing a foundation for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Based on the recognition that the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East is through the realization of the peaceful coexistence between the two States — Israel and a future Palestinian state — Japan has been making its utmost efforts to that end. In particular, Japan has been promoting the following measures:

(a) Japan maintains high-level political dialogues with both Israel and the Palestinian Authority in order to encourage them to advance the peace process. For instance, Ambassador Yutaka Iimura, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for the Middle East, visited Israel and the Palestinian territories in July 2010, January and February 2011, in order to work with high-level officials of the relevant parties to play a responsible role in enhancing the Middle East peace process based on the two-State solution. In addition, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority visited Japan, at the invitation of the Government of Japan, in November 2010. He held meetings with Prime Minister Naoto Kan and then Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara and discussed various issues, including Japan's assistance to the Palestinians and the Middle East peace process;

(b) Japan has been actively involved in assisting the Palestinians since the Oslo Accords of 1993. As of May 2011, Japan has disbursed a total of more than $1.19 billion in assistance to the Palestinians. In fiscal year 2010, Japan extended assistance that amounts to around $100 million, in line with what Prime Minister Kan pledged at his meeting with Prime Minister Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority in Tokyo in November 2010. Prime Ministers Kan and Fayyad confirmed the importance of continuing to support the efforts for Palestinian state-building. In this regard, in September and December 2010, the Government of Japan decided to extend non-project grant aid of 2.5 billion JPY to the Palestinian Authority aiming at the promotion of economic and social development efforts by the Palestinian Authority;

(c) . The Government of Japan has actively been initiating and sponsoring various projects that will contribute to confidence-building between the Israelis and the Palestinians. In addition to that, Japan, based on its efforts in the fields mentioned above, is promoting the "Corridor for peace and prosperity" initiative through regional cooperation among Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Japan, as its mid- and long-term effort to generate hope and trust among the peoples in the region for future coexistence and co-prosperity between Israel and a Palestinian state. The initiative requires regional cooperation. Japan, the Palestinian Authority, Israel and Jordan established "the Four-Party Consultation Unit" which has already held several meetings at the ministerial and technical levels since March 2007. As a result of the fifth technical-level meeting, held in March 2010, the four

parties reaffirmed their strong commitment to the initiative and confirmed that they would continue to make their utmost efforts to establish Jericho Agro-Industrial Park by the end of 2012.

Kazakhstan

[Original: Russian]
[7 June 2011]

As a strong and consistent believer in the idea of non-proliferation and disarmament, Kazakhstan supports as a matter of principle the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a way to guarantee the achievement of a nuclear-free world.

During his visit to Kazakhstan, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon approached President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in view of Kazakhstan's contribution to non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, to put forward a proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Head of State did so in his address at the Global Summit on Nuclear Security held in Washington, D.C., in April 2010, and at the third meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia held in Istanbul in June 2010.

We strongly believe that a targeted and sustained approach to the establishment of such zones would foster trust among neighbours in the region and lay the foundations for a radical change in the situation that would lead to peace and cooperation, including in the Middle East.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[20 May 2011]

Lebanon affirms the following:

- Lebanon does not possess or produce weapons of mass destruction, and is opposed to the legality of the threat or use of such weapons;
- Lebanon complies with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, particularly as regards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and cooperates in efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. It is apprehensive, however, about Israel's failure to adhere to international legitimacy. Israel maintains a nuclear arsenal that constitutes a constant threat to all the countries of the region, and consequently to international peace and security;
- Lebanon supports and welcomes all initiatives to achieve disarmament, particularly in the Middle East, and reaffirms the role of the United Nations in that regard;
- Lebanon has updated laws and regulations to permit the monitoring of the export, transit and cross-border transport of any form of weapons of mass destruction or their accessories;

- Lebanon does not provide assistance of any kind to any group seeking to acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, provide or use nuclear or other weapons;

- Lebanon supports Arab conferences and initiatives aimed at eliminating the causes of tension in the Middle East by ridding the region of weapons of mass destruction. It contributes effectively to all meetings of the technical committee responsible for preparing a draft treaty on ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. Lebanon stresses the danger which Israel's nuclear armaments and other Israeli weapons of mass destruction represent for international peace and Arab national security.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[2 June 2011]

For more than three decades, the item "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" has been on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly, and numerous efforts have been made to attain the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons in that region. The Government of Mexico has supported that aim, and encourages the international community to bring it to fruition.

The Government of Mexico believes that the expansion and establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of freely negotiated agreements, especially in areas of tension such as the Middle East, makes an important contribution towards achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

In addition, the Government of Mexico considers that political will on the part of the States of the region is a sine qua non for making effective progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

As a sign of its commitment to this issue, Mexico advocated the convening of the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in New York on 30 April 2010, at which the participants adopted a declaration that was submitted to the eighth (2010) Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a contribution from the States parties and signatories to treaties that establish such zones.

Mexico has traditionally supported the adoption of resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, both in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and in the Board of Governors of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Lastly, through the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, in which 10 States participate, Mexico has reiterated the importance of promoting the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the convening of a conference on the subject, scheduled for 2012, in accordance with the action plan set out in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, which was reflected in the ministerial declarations adopted on 22 September 2010 and 30 April 2011 by the States participating in the Initiative.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[6 May 2011]

The Syrian Arab Republic believes that the only way to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and limit the threat of nuclear proliferation is for all States to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in implementation of article 3 thereof, which requires States parties to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA. After over 37 years in existence, the Treaty has yet to achieve that aim.

The Syrian Arab Republic has always worked to establish a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, nuclear weapons in the Middle East. In April 2003, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, Syria proposed an initiative to the Security Council in New York to rid the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, nuclear weapons. However, international conditions at the time and the positions of certain influential States in the Security Council did not favour the success of that initiative. In December 2003, the Syrian Arab Republic resubmitted the same initiative to the Security Council. It is still in blue before the Council, awaiting more favourable international conditions for its resubmission and adoption.

The Syrian Arab Republic expresses its grave concern that Israel's refusal to accede to the Treaty, despite numerous calls and international resolutions urging it to do so, remains the fundamental obstacle to ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons.

Along with its fellow Arab States, Syria made diplomatic efforts to ensure that the Final Document of the Review Conference included provisions on the Middle East and on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. As a result of those efforts, the Final Document includes the following provisions:

1. It reaffirms the importance of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the decisions taken at the 2000 Review Conference, and stresses that the resolution remains valid until its goals have been achieved.

2. It recalls the reaffirmation by the 2000 Review Conference of the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

3. It stresses the necessity of adherence by all States parties to their commitments under the Treaty; urges all States in the region to take relevant steps and confidence-building measures to contribute to the realization of the objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East; and calls upon all States to refrain from taking any measures that impede the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that it stands ready to cooperate with the Secretary-General in order to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]
[27 April 2011]

Information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/42 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Article 6 of the Constitutional Law of Turkmenistan on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan (27 December 1995)

Turkmenistan shall not possess, produce or disseminate nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or other types of weapons of mass destruction, nor shall it allow the establishment of military bases of foreign States in its territory.

Foreign policy doctrine of Turkmenistan as a neutral State (27 December 1995)

Turkmenistan shall not possess, produce or disseminate nuclear, chemical, bacteriological or other types of weapons of mass destruction, or help to create new types of such weapons or technologies for their production. Turkmenistan is a party to all the main international legal instruments providing guarantees for the creation of a system of collective security.

In the context of the obligations governing the international behaviour of a neutral State, Turkmenistan refuses to take sides in a conflict or to allow the establishment of military bases of foreign States in its territory.

Military Doctrine of independent and permanently neutral Turkmenistan (21 January 2009)

Turkmenistan pledges not to possess, produce, disseminate or transport through its territory nuclear, chemical, biological or other types of weapons of mass destruction.

Criminal Code of Turkmenistan, paragraph 3 of article 254 (Smuggling) (10 May 2010)

(3) The transport across the customs border of Turkmenistan of narcotics; psychotropic, virulent, toxic, poisonous or radioactive substances, or explosives; arms; explosive devices, firearms or ammunition; nuclear, chemical, biological or other types of weapons of mass destruction; materials and equipment that may be used to make weapons of mass destruction and in respect of which special regulations have been established governing their transport across the customs border of Turkmenistan; strategically important raw materials; and cultural objects in respect of which special regulations have been established governing their transport across the customs border of Turkmenistan, if such act is committed without the knowledge of customs inspectors or is concealed from them through the fraudulent use of documents or means of customs identification, or are accompanied by a failure to declare goods or a false declaration of goods, shall be punished by imprisonment for three to eight years, with or without confiscation of property.

Turkmenistan is a party to the following international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation:

1. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Paris, 13 January 1993);

2. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Moscow, Washington, D.C., and London, 1 July 1968);

3. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (New York, 10 April 1972);

4. Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa, 3 December 1997);

5. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (24 September 1996);

6. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (New York, 15 December 1997);

7. International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (The Hague, 25 November 2002);

8. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and its Protocols on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) and on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) (Geneva, 10 October 1980);

9. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (opened for signature on 3 March 1980);

10. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 31 May 2001);

11. Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 8 July 2005);

12. Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (Semipalatinsk, 8 September 2006);

13. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (New York, 13 April 2005).

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

[Original: Spanish]
[18 April 2011]

On various occasions the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has expressed its concern about the situation of injustice, instability and conflict that has prevailed for decades in the Middle East as a result of interreligious disputes and geopolitical

ambitions aimed principally at achieving hegemony over the land and the water and oil resources found in that region.

Venezuela considers that the key source of the turmoil in that region is the policy of Israel towards its neighbours and towards the Palestinian people, which has been reflected in a variety of clear violations of the human rights of the Arab peoples and of their countries' sovereignty. What is worse, the Israeli Government, which has already on a number of occasions demonstrated its lack of respect for the resolutions of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency and for international humanitarian law, has acknowledged, in statements made by its Prime Minister on 11 December 2006, that it possesses nuclear weapons. It is thus the only nuclear-weapon State in the region and the only one that is not a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Venezuelan Government therefore considers that, as a fundamental step towards the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, Israel should finally heed the call of the United Nations and of many individual countries to accede to the Treaty and to place its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. It is also important to respect the various resolutions adopted on this issue and to implement the actions set out in the Final Document of the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, specifically in the chapter entitled "The Middle East, particularly implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East", including the convening in 2012 of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and the appointment of a facilitator to support implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.